

ENERGY & AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

June 27, 2000

Members Present:

John Ray (Chair)
Carolyn Elefant (V-chair)
Morris Altschuler
Hans Ashar
Bernard Bordenick
Doug Canter
Stan Doore
Jeffrey Komarow
Neal Goldenberg
Milt Minneman
Ed Ohanian

Members Absent:

Bob Brown
Susan Mitchell
Charlie Wilkes

Staff:

Ann Elsen
Mary Richmond

The Chair, John Ray, called the June 27, 2000 EAQAC meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lobby Level Conference Room of the Executive Office Building in Rockville.

Mary Richmond was introduced as the new staff person for EAQAC. Mary has been with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for three years working in enforcement and compliance, prior to which she spent ten years at the Maryland Department of Environment. Mary has a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering. She replaces Sam Johnson.

The Chair presented awards to departing members, Carolyn Elefant and Hans Ashar, for ongoing dedication and commitment to energy efficiency and environmental preservation, and for six years of service to Montgomery County as members of the Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee. Hans was also recognized for his participation in annual science fair awards and for serving as chair of the Science Fair Subcommittee. Carolyn was commended for her work in developing the EAQAC web page and a consumer education program on electric utility deregulation. Carolyn served as vice-chair for EAQAC and chair of the Energy Subcommittee.

The summary of the May 23, 2000 EAQAC meeting was approved with revisions.

The selection committee reported that the six names have been forwarded by the County Executive to the Council for appointment or reappointment to EAQAC. These appointments are expected to appear on the Council agenda for approval on July 11, 2000.

The Committee reviewed a draft of a letter to be sent to Council President, Michael Subin, from John Ray in support of the County's participation in the Cities for Climate Protection campaign (CCP). After discussion, the Committee voted to send the letter in its current form.

Energy:

The Committee discussed electric utility deregulation and the lack of new suppliers who are prepared to market to residential customers. EAQAC will continue to monitor the development of the electricity market.

Transportation:

The topic of increasing petroleum prices was raised, and discussion focused on whether EAQAC should take some action to assist the County in mitigating the economic effects of higher motor fuel prices through increased consumer education. A suggestion was made that EAQAC perform an economic analysis of the purchase and use of electric busses in comparison to diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) busses. Another suggestion involved preparing information for consumers on the new tax incentives for hybrid vehicles, including the dollar amount of tax credits available for each of the new vehicles on the market, as well as other economic and air quality benefits. The Transportation Subcommittee will review these suggestions and recommend a course of action.

Strategic Planning:

The resolution for the Cities for Climate Protection campaign was introduced at the County Council meeting on June 27, 2000. It is expected to appear on the Council agenda for approval on July 11, 2000. EAQAC is sending a letter to the Council President in support of the resolution.

Air Quality and Health:

There have been additional revisions to Chapter 3 (these changes to date have not altered the content or intent). The Chapter is still with the County Attorney for review. EAQAC will be kept informed of the many anticipated changes as they occur at each step.

Web Site:

In order to insure continuity after Carolyn's departure, and to keep the web site contents intact, the EAQAC web site has been copied onto the DEP server. Links will be forwarded from Carolyn's server. New material to be added to the site will be sent via email to Ann. Material that requires Committee review will be presented at monthly meetings prior to its inclusion on the web site.

The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m.